

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2011 - 2012 SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PENNSYLVANIA BALLET ANNOUNCES 2011-2012 SEASON

HIGHLIGHTS:

North American Premiere of Alexei Ratmansky's *Jeu de Cartes*

Company Premieres of *Peter Pan* and *N.Y. Export: Opus Jazz*

World Premiere by Choreographer in Residence Matthew Neenan

**International Debut of Pennsylvania Ballet's production of
*George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*TM**



Philadelphia, PA (September 15, 2011) – Pennsylvania Ballet Artistic Director Roy Kaiser announces the Company's 2011-2012 Season – a diverse collection of ballets showcasing the breadth of the dancers' physical and artistic talents.

Three Company premieres from renowned choreographers Alexei Ratmansky, Trey McIntyre, and Jerome Robbins – plus a world premiere by Choreographer in Residence Matthew Neenan – will invigorate the repertoire. Complementing them are audience favorites like Neenan's *Keep* and Robert Weiss' *Messiah* and unforgettable Balanchine masterpieces. Making the Company's 48th Season ever more historic is the international debut of Pennsylvania Ballet's production of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*TM in Ottawa, Canada.

“Our 48th Season shows there's nothing Pennsylvania Ballet can't do,” Kaiser says. “From challenging contemporary work to joyous story ballets, you won't want to miss a moment.”

To join Pennsylvania Ballet's 2011-2012 Season, call 215.893.1955 or visit paballet.org. **Single tickets go on sale June 13, 2011.**

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET'S 2011-2012 SEASON

**Denotes Company Premiere*

Russian Suite: Ratmansky and Balanchine

October 20-23, 2011

Academy of Music

Featuring the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra

§ *Raymonda Variations* by George Balanchine, music by Alexander Glazunov

§ *Jeu de Cartes** by Alexei Ratmansky, music by Igor Stravinsky

§ *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue* by George Balanchine, music by Richard Rodgers

Witness history as Alexei Ratmansky's bold *Jeu de Cartes* premieres in North America. One of the world's most sought-after choreographers, Ratmansky originally created *Jeu de Cartes* for the Bolshoi Ballet. This vigorous, abstract work crafts a visual expression of Igor Stravinsky's score of the same name. The French title translates to "The Card Game," which for Ratmansky, simply addresses the "gamble" of choreographing to Stravinsky's musical complexities. The former Artistic Director of the Bolshoi Ballet and current Artist in Residence at American Ballet Theatre, Ratmansky draws on both his classical Russian training and Western influences.

Two diverse Balanchine treasures complete the program. *Raymonda Variations* was inspired by Balanchine's love of Alexander Glazounov's *Raymonda* and the music's "grand and generous manner, its joy and playfulness." Opening with a waltz for the principal ballerina and a corps of 12, the ballet is a practical A to Z of classical technique.

Broadway meets ballet in *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*, Balanchine's hilarious story of a dancer who falls in love with the girlfriend of a big mob boss. This "Chicago"-style one-act features sassy, show-stopping choreography set to Richard Rodgers' score.

George Balanchine's The Nutcracker

Music by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

December 1-4, 2011

National Arts Centre

Ottawa, Canada

December 10-31, 2011

Academy of Music

Philadelphia, PA

Presented by First Niagara

Featuring the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra

Be enchanted by the Philadelphia region's most beloved holiday tradition, ***George Balanchine's The Nutcracker***. For 43 years, families have created yuletide memories with Pennsylvania Ballet's production of this classic tale. The simple story of a girl, a gift, and a fanciful dream is made magical by opulent sets and costumes by Peter Horne and Judanna Lynn and the impassioned artistry of Pennsylvania Ballet dancers. Dozens of young dance students take the stage with our stars. The renowned Philadelphia Boys Choir raises their voices with the magnificent Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra to bring Tchaikovsky's unforgettable score to life.

Adding to the excitement of this year's *Nutcracker* season, Pennsylvania Ballet dancers will precede their Philadelphia engagement with a tour to the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, Canada. This historic tour marks the first international presentation of Pennsylvania Ballet's production of *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*.

Pushing Boundaries: Forsythe and Neenan

February 9-12, 2012

Merriam Theater

§ *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude* by William Forsythe, music by Franz Schubert

§ *Keep* by Matthew Neenan, music by Alexander Borodin and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

§ *11:11* by Matthew Neenan, music by Rufus Wainwright

Explore the physical and emotional frontiers of classical ballet with three innovative contemporary works. William Forsythe's powerhouse *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude* returns to Pennsylvania Ballet's stage after an exhilarating Company premiere this past February. Five dancers interpret the last movement of Schubert's Ninth Symphony with seemingly incomprehensible speed and precision.

Choreographer in Residence Matthew Neenan creates poignant magic with his acclaimed work, *Keep*. Commissioned in 2009, *Keep* delves into the challenges of love and relationships through passionate pas de deux. An intimate, sensitive piece, *Keep* features vibrant costumes designed by Martha Chamberlain.

Mr. Neenan completes the evening with *11:11*, set to six songs from singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright. In earth-toned costumes also designed by Martha Chamberlain, the cast of twenty performs to such sultry songs as "Vibrate" and "Greek Song" and the engaging melodies "Poses" and "Oh What a World."

Messiah by Robert Weiss

Music by George Frideric Handel

March 8-17, 2012

Academy of Music

Featuring the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra

Inspirational. Moving. Pure. With *Messiah*, choreographer Robert Weiss creates an enthralling, epic ballet that translates Handel's world-famous libretto to the stage. The former Artistic Director of Pennsylvania Ballet, Weiss employs more than 50 individual scenes to convey an emotional spectrum of joy, suffering, passion, and redemption. *Messiah* opens with a full choir onstage in a skeletal abstraction of a church. With sun streaming through the bare windows, dancers take the stage in a vivid, dramatic interpretation of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. A highlight of the production is Handel's revered "Hallelujah" chorus.

Peter Pan* by Trey McIntyre
Music by Sir Edward Elgar, arranged by Niel DePonte
May 3-13, 2012
Academy of Music

Featuring the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra

Escape to Neverland with this whimsical ballet starring the boy who never grew up. Based on the classic story by Sir James M. Barrie, ***Peter Pan*** takes audiences on an adventure with all their favorite characters, including the Darling children and Captain Hook himself. Choreographer Trey McIntyre reinterprets the fairy tale with a twist for the new millennium, complete with spectacular flying sequences, swashbuckling swordfights, and costumes inspired by punk fashion. With music by Sir Edward Elgar arranged by Niel DePonte, *Peter Pan* is the perfect introduction to dance for audiences of all ages. This Company premiere is a ballet the whole family will never, never forget.

N.Y. Export: Opus Jazz*

May 31-June 3, 2012

Merriam Theater

Featuring the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra

§ ***N.Y. Export: Opus Jazz**** by Jerome Robbins, music by Robert Prince
§ ***Barber Violin Concerto*** by Peter Martins, music by Samuel Barber
§ **WORLD PREMIERE** by Matthew Neenan

Feel the flavor of the city that never sleeps with Jerome Robbins' ***N.Y. Export: Opus Jazz***. Robbins' "ballet in sneakers," celebrates the youth and vitality of the era in which it emerged: the distinctly cool 1950's. *N.Y. Export: Opus Jazz* adopts the spirit of Robbins' renowned musical "West Side Story," with Broadway-style theatricality saturating this series of dances to the music of Robert Prince.

Also on the bill, Peter Martins' ***Barber Violin Concerto*** showcases two couples, bathed in white, performing a brilliant series of pas de deux. The piece embodies the lyrical movement of Samuel Barber's inventive score that bridges from an opening adagio to its final scherzo, exploring the dichotomy between classical ballet and modern dance in three movements.

To complete the program, Choreographer in Residence Matthew Neenan mounts his much-anticipated 13th **world premiere** for the Company.

Be a part of ballet... subscribe! 2011-2012 Season subscriptions are on sale now at 215.893.1955 and at paballet.org. Save up to 30% on single ticket prices with a full season subscription. Subscribers enjoy the best seats at the best prices, personalized service, lost ticket insurance, flexible ticket exchanges, a monthly payment plan, discounted parking, and more.

Groups of 10 or more receive great discounts and perks! Ask about backstage tours, special talks with staff and dancers, dining options near the theater, fundraising opportunities, and holiday parties for your group. For tickets and more information, contact Group Sales Manager Arajua Backman at 215.587.6921 or abackman@paballet.org.

Connect with us! Follow Pennsylvania Ballet on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to go behind-the-scenes. Plus, text “PABALLET” to 77950 to join our mobile club, MyPABallet, and receive special offers and news about the Company.

Pennsylvania Ballet’s 2011-2012 Season sponsors include The Omni Hotel at Independence Park, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Sporting Club at the Bellevue, and US Airways.

Pennsylvania Ballet receives support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. Pennsylvania Ballet also receives support from The Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

Founded in 1963 by Balanchine student and protégée Barbara Weisberger, **Pennsylvania Ballet** is one of the nation’s leading ballet companies. Headquartered in Philadelphia, the Company’s annual local season features six programs of classic favorites and new works, including the Philadelphia holiday tradition, *George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker*TM. For more information, visit paballet.org or call 215.551.7000.

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